

Message Text

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56

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CCO-00 OPR-02

A-01 PER-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 AID-05 FS-01 CU-02

OC-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCCT-01 USSS-00 EB-07 DOTE-00

FAA-00 /100 W

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O R 211506Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8762

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LE

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR POSSIBLE CONVOY

REF: (A) BEIRUT 6461 (B) DAMASCUS 4713

1. ASSUMPTION REF A CORRECT THAT ALL TRAVELERS SHOULD COME INITIALLY TO DAMASCUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS JAMMED WITH TRAVELERS AT ALL HOURS AND HAS INADEQUATE SPACE FOR PROCESSING. WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO COMPLETE EXIT FORMALITIES BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AIRPORT AS MUCH OF A "PASS"THROUGH" OPERATION AS POSSIBLE. BEIRUT'S PLAN TO KEEP CHARTER PASSENGERS TOGETHER WILL GREATLY FACILITATE OUR PROCESSING.

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2. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN OUR OTHER PREPARATIONS WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF GASOLINE TRACK. EMBASSY WAS OBLIGED TO PURCHASE THE EIGHT THOUSAND LITRES PROVIDED BY SYRIA FOR JUNE 20 CONVOY. FIVE THOUSAND LITRES ARE STORED IN OUR UNDERGROUND TANK AND APPROX. THREE THOUSAND LITRES IN 15 BARRELS. WE MAY BRING BARRELS (WITH PUMPING FACILITY) ON OUR EMBASSY TRUCK RATHER THAN GOING BACK TO SADCOP FOR TANKER. TANK TRUCK THEY WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR 20TH WAS CONVERTED MAZOOT CARRIER WITH ONE BAD LEAK AND BRKEN PUMP.

3. WILL HAVE TO ADVISE SARG SOONEST IF CONVOY DEFINITELY RESCHEDULED. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OBTAINING SYRIAN COOPERATION, WORST DAYS FOR CONVOY WOULD BE FRIDAY OR SATURDAY SINCE SARG CLOSES DOWN COMPLETELY ON FRIDAY. IN ANY EVENT, THE MORE ADVANCE NOTICE WE HAVE, THE BETTER.

4. LOCAL MEA REP TOLD US THAT MEA CONVOY OF 23 PERSONS HAD COME FROM BEIRUT JULY 20 VIA ARAMOUN WITHOUT INCIDENT. MEA PLANNING ANOTHER SMALL CONVOY FOR JULY 23.

5. WE WILL ALSO NEED OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRWAYS FLIGHT INFO AS SOON AS KNOWN TO ASSIST IN REQUEST FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCE. CABLE ANY CHANGES FROM INFO CONTAINED STATE 177940.
MURPHY

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